L3/WV 1484 m 12. x/-

THE

PUFFER PUFF'D,

OR

O——r H****LY

AN

Overmatch for the DEVIL;

A

VISION.

In an EPISTLE to a FRIEND,

BY

PHANTASIUS TERATOPÆUS.

Βάσκ' ἴθι δλε δ ρε. ——————Hom. Il.

——————— ——ῦτος ἄριστος

Ἔστιν ὀνειροκρίτας, ὃ δὲ διδάσκαλός ἐστι παρ' ὧ νῦς. Theocr.

LONDON:

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PUFFER PUFFED,

OR

THE HISTORY

OF

A Scotsman for the DEVIL;

A

TRUE EPISTLE TO A FRIEND.

PRINTED IN THE YEAR 1770 PRICE

LONDON.

THE

PUFFER PUFF'D.

SIR,

I Shall make no Apology for troubling you with the following whimſical Piece. I know you are amuſed generally with any Thing that carries with it an Air of Singularity, and as this is, both for its Matter and Manner, ſuch as I judged would be entertaining to a Man that is pleaſed with Curioſities of this Kind, I have ventured to ſet down, as minutely as I can recollect, and tranſmit to you, the following Viſion, or Dream, if you ſo pleaſe; for I was under the Dominion of Sleep, when I was preſented with the extraordinary Scene, of which I am going, as well as I can, to make a Deſcription. But I am firſt to acquaint you, that I had ſome little Time before been peruſing, in a publick Paper, one of thoſe Advertiſements, ſo generally admired, and ſo frequently publiſhed by the renowned O--R H--LY. And, after having for ſome Time been revolving in my Mind divers uncommon Circumſtances relating to that great Man, and thinking with ſome Attention upon the Merits of his ſeveral Performances, and eſpecially that capital Work of his, lately publiſhed under the juſt and proper Title of the *Coup de Grace*, I inſenſibly fell into a profound Sleep: and, as the Imagination is generally buſy about the laſt waking Object that preſents itſelf, eſpecially if it ſtrike forcibly upon

on the Mind, as to me it happened, I had the Dream you are now going to be entertained with.

I thought, that, as I was accidentally passing by the Corner of *Lincolns-Inn-Fields* near *Clare-Market*, I observed a vast Concourse of People, crowding with uncommon Earnestness, about the Door of an odd kind of Temple, such as I conceived might have been erected in earlier and more idolatrous Times, to the Honour and Worship of the great *Baal*. Their whole Attention was directed toward something that was going to be transacted within that Place of Abomination: and they seemed, by the Chearfulness and Festivity that was visible in their Countenances, to be in high and greedy Expectation, of some very amusing Event. I, curious to enquire into Causes, mixed myself with the Herd, and presently fell into Discourse with some of those that stood about me. I soon learnt the Occasion and Meaning of so extraordinary an Assembly; which was, the Demise of that great and excellent Genius O--R H--LY. He had never recovered, it seems, the Fright which the dreadful News of a future State had lately put him into, and died not long after in the highest Agonies of Despair. I was informed further, that a high Court of Justice had been erected, to sit and determine upon the Case and Merits of the said O--R; and the Expectation of the Sentence which was to be pronounced upon the Issue, was the Cause of that remarkable Attention and strong Impatience I had observed in the By-standers: That as soon as the Temple could be cleared of its Pollutions, the Court would begin to sit in Form, and examine Witnesses: that they had for that Purpose ordered

an exact and diligent Search to be made, and their Beadle or Head-tip-ſtaff to drive forth of the Temple and execute Vengeance upon, an infamous Crew of Miſcreants, which the Orator always kept about his Perſon, when living, as his Guard, his Companions, and the Puffers of his Praiſe.

I had ſcarce received this Information, when, turning ſuddenly about, upon hearing a moſt hideous and horrid Din, I directed my Eye towards the Interior Temple, and was greatly aſtoniſhed at the Sight of a flaming Sword, brandiſhed in the Air, and caſting forth dreadful Flaſhes, as ſudden and baleful as thoſe of Lightning. Inſtantly, upon the dividing of the Crowd to make Room for what ſhould come forth, I perceived a Troop of Miſerables, pale and trembling, and endeavouring to eſcape the Purſuit of that terrible Miniſter of Vengeance, who held the flaming Sword, and was directing his Aim, and dealing his Blows amongſt them, with all the Marks of Severity and Indignation. There was Treaſon and Rebellion, Atheiſm and Blaſphemy, Infidelity and Ignorance, Falſe-teſtimony, Deceit, Perjury, and a thouſand other horrid Shapes, whoſe Names it would be tedious to enumerate.

I was under ſome Aſtoniſhment, I remember, that I did not ſee Hypocriſy amongſt the reſt; but I ſoon recovered from my Surpriſe, when, examining narrowly thoſe that paſt, I diſcovered him with a demure Sneak, and holy Leer, endeavouring to ſculk and ſlip away under the ſanctified Appearance of the Reverend Mr. *G---ge Wh---d.*

One Thing I could not obſerve without Amazement, which was, that, though the Strokes given

to ſome of the Wretches, as Felony, Perjury, and ſome others of low Degree, were generally aimed with the utmoſt Propriety, and ſuch Exactneſs as always to become mortal; yet, that when the Sword was directed at Treaſon, and a few more of a deeper Dye, it either was retarded in its Deſcent, and fell not with its full Force; (not cutting Sheer, but juſt raſing the Skin, or lightly *drawing Blood)* or elſe glanced ſuddenly aſide upon ſome Object near Hand, without any Hurt to the Criminal it ought to have laid flat.

What became of them after their Expulſion and the Execution done upon them I could not learn. Only Treaſon (after having paid his Compliments to one, whom he diſtinguiſhed from the reſt of the Crowd as his moſt intimate Acquaintance, and whom, by his Garb, the Prominence of his Cheek-bones, and his ſandy Complexion, I eaſily knew to be the Genius of *S----d*) ſlipt into a Coach, and immediately repaired, though now in a ſomewhat more plauſible Shape, to receive at the *T---r* the Congratulations, upon his narrow Eſcape, of his good Friend the E--l of *C---ie*, the late L--d Pr---t of *Ed--gh* his high Ally, and his Couſin-German *S---n* L---d *F---r* of *L---t*.

The Court had by this Time gone through the Examination of a ſufficient Number of Witneſſes, and were juſt proceeding to Sentence, when a duſky Meſſenger from the Regions below was introduced, and informed the Court, that in Bar of awarding Sentence, his infernal Majeſty deſired to be heard by his Counſel. This Requeſt was no ſooner made, than complied with; (for the whole Court, Judges,

Jury,

Jury, and Advocates on both Sides, paid always a great Deference and Veneration to that Monarch) And his Majesty's Attorney-General immediately entered upon his Plea. " He seemed to be very " certain of the Sentence that was to be pronounc- " ed, of the Condemnation of the Criminal, and " his Transmission to the Place of eternal Punish- " ment in the Shades; but said, his Instructions " were, to inform the Court, that if they had any " sort of Regard for his Diabolical Highness, or " any Consideration for the Well-being of his Sub- " jects, or the Security of his Kingdom, they " would endeavour to find out some other Method " of Punishment, and Place of Exile, for the infa- " mous Caitiff upon whose Trial they had been " sitting, and whose Sentence remained now to be " pronounced. That since the Arrival of the " Doctors, *Oates* and *Sacheverell*, with some others, " condemned and sentenced to Hell by their re- " spective Judges, Plots and Machinations, Parties " and Factions, had kept his Majesty in perpetual " Alarms; endangered the Constitution of his " Kingdom, and well nigh overturned the Govern- " ment. Adding, that he knew so well the Genius " of the Criminal under present Consideration, that " he had determined, in this manner to petition " the Court, in order to prevent the total Subver- " sion of his Empire. That he was so perfectly " acquainted with his turbulent Disposition and " restless Spirit, that should the intended Sentence " take Place, they must soon expect to hear of an " Addition to Hell's wild Uproar, and of *Confusi-* " *on worse confounded.*"

The

The Plea was without Heſitation admitted; and the Court had now begun to enter upon a freſh Conſultation, how to diſpoſe of the Criminal; when they were informed by their Cryer, that a Deputation from his Holineſs Pope *Alexander* the ſixth, and ſome others of his triple-crown'd Brethren, the Governors and Directors of the Affairs of Purgatory, headed by their Eminences the Cardinals *Baronius* and *Bellarmine*, waited without, and begged to be admitted.

Their Requeſt was much the ſame with the former; and they urged with great Force the Ineffica-cy of the Fires of Purgatory to do away Sins, ſo numerous, ſo foul, and of ſo deep a Dye. Beſides that the peſtilential and contagious Blaſts might injure thoſe poor Spirits that had been already annealed, and by baleful Communication again befoul what had with ſo much Torture been rendered white, and was emerging pure from the Furnace.

This too was found reaſonable by the Court, and the Ambaſſadors diſmiſſed to their Satisfaction. The Judges, who had been thus twice precluded, were now in great Streights, and under a terrible Dilemma what to do, or how to direct the condign Puniſhment of ſo inveterate a Malefactor. Several Opinions were canvaſſed, divers ſentences propoſed, but without their being able to fix upon any Thing.

Some were for ſending him to the other Side of the Globe, that he might linger out a tedious Baniſhment amongſt the Antipodes: but one in the Court of diſtinguiſhed Learning and Virtue, deſired, as a particular Favour, that he might be permitted to beg off that People, upon account of a pro-

bable Opinion that they formerly had been acquainted with *Johannes Picus* of *Mirandula* *.

Others were for transporting him to one of our *American* Colonies, under the Government and Direction of G--l *J--s O---pe*. But the Court at last over-ruled that and all other Proposals that had been made, and to put an End to the Debate, ordered, that he should be immediately put under the Custody of the D--y L--t of the T---; and G---l *W----n* was immediately sent for to come and take Charge of the Criminal.

As soon as he appeared, the Court signified to him the Occasion of their Message to him: they required him, upon their Authority, to take particular Care to execute well, and to the full Intent and Purport of the Instructions he should receive, the Office he was now directed to take upon him: that he should be remarkably diligent in divesting himself of every idle and unprofitable Virtue, as Generosity, Complacency, Good-Manners, and the like: but above all to steel his Heart against all Approaches of Remorse, and every Motive to Compassion: that could they discover in him the Remains of but a single Virtue, they could by no means consent to put into his Hands, a Prisoner, who deserved not the least Abatement or Mitigation, of the severest Sentence.

The G---l returned them his Compliments of Thanks for the Honour they did him, and the Confidence they seemed to repose in him: he promised for himself with all Solemnity not to forfeit

* Johannes jacet hic Mirandula; cætera nôrunt
Et Tagus et Ganges: *forsan & Antipodes.* Epigram. Delect.

the good Opinion they might have conceived: and desired that his Character and Reputation, or, what he prized far beyond them both, his Gold, might be put to answer for his Fidelity. He said he had long ago qualified himself in as high a Degree as they could possibly expect from him, and that were they to cause the most accurate Enquiry to be made into Countries the most savage of the known World, and ramble from the *Cape of Good Hope* to the Coast of *Patagonia*, they would probably not be able at last to find one better qualified to serve all the Purposes of the *Court*.

He concluded with desiring the Judges, that an Addition might be made to the Allowance usually exhibited to the Prisoners under his Care, that he might not be out of Pocket by Prison Room and Bread and Water.

The Court acquiesced in this so very reasonable Request: and ordered the wretched O--r instantly to be delivered up, and conveyed to the Place of Punishment, from which no Cessation was to be obtained, no Mercy to be expected.

Thus at last the Court broke up; and the Multitude of Spectators testified their Satisfaction by the loudest Applauses, which echoing through the Court, and being redoubled from without, quickly put an End to my Sleep and Amusement together.

FINIS.